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Notice Type : Public Notice

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PUBLIC NOTICE Opportunity to Object to the draft decision regarding the Francis Marion Prescribed Burning Adaptive Management Strategy

The Francis Marion Ranger District of the Francis Marion National Forest has prepared an environmental assessment and draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Francis Marion Prescribed Burning Adaptive Management Strategy project. We are proposing to apply prescribed fire on a landscape level on the Francis Marion National Forest using a rotation of burn blocks. National Forest lands which may be acquired in the future, and forest lands under other ownership covered in an appropriate agreement, may also be included. The proposed project or activity is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The responsible official for this project is Rick Lint, Forest Supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. The EA and draft DN/FONSI are available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53945>. These documents are also available for review at the Francis Marion Ranger District Office, 2967 Steed Creek Road, Huger, SC 29450. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from: Rhea Whalen, District Ranger, at the same address or (843) 336-2200. How to Object and Timeframe The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in The State. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c). The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d). At a minimum, the objection must include the following: List the name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector; Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection; Provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest(s) and/or ranger district on which the project is located; A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the project to which the objection applies; If applicable, a statement explaining how the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies; and supporting reasons; and A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections, including names and addresses of those who object, are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with the reviewing officer: Ken Arney, Regional Forester, ATTN: Objections, 1720 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309, fax (404) 347-4821. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to SM.FS.r8_ro_obj@usda.gov. Please state "FM Rx Fire Management" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail. 4523250

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